

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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Contact: Sara Clark
Phone: 733-5612

GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 18 NEW LEARN AND EARN SCHOOLS OPEN FOR FALL *Two New Schools Open Today in Guilford and Madison Counties*

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that 18 new *Learn and Earn* Schools will open across the state this fall. Two of the new schools, the Early College at Bennett College for Women in Greensboro and the Madison County Early College High School in Madison open today.

“With 18 new schools opening this fall, more students than ever have a chance to attend a *Learn and Earn* school and earn a free associate’s degree or two years of college credit along with their high school diploma,” said Easley. “*Learn and Earn* and the EARN grants are the best thing to happen to education in a long time. These new schools are providing thousands of students the opportunity to get a free college education and prepare for successful in careers in the 21st century.”

The Early College at Bennett College for Women, the only all-female public high school in North Carolina, is located on the campus of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro. The school will serve 100 young women in 9th to 12th grade. The school is a part of Guilford County Public Schools and will focus on academic excellence and leadership. Its smaller class sizes will create a nurturing, personalized environment to help students prepare for college and a career.

Madison Early College High School is a part of Madison County Schools and located on the campus of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. Madison Early College High School will enable students to earn tuition-free community college credits, a college certificate or an associate’s degree while obtaining a high school diploma. The school will also offer college and high school courses online.

There are 60 *Learn and Earn* schools opening this fall across the state. Most schools are located on a community college or university campus and allow students to take college courses, tuition free. After no more than five years of study, students earn a high school diploma and two years of college credit or an associate’s degree for free. Other new schools are opening in the next few weeks in Beaufort, Bertie, Cleveland, Currituck, Forsyth, Hertford, Hyde, Iredell-Statesville, Jackson, Johnston, Rockingham, Rowan, Tyrrell, Vance and Warren counties.

Students who do not live near a *Learn and Earn* high school can receive college credit for free by enrolling in *Learn and Earn Online*. As with *Learn and Earn* high schools, students can earn both high school diploma and an associate’s degree or two years of transferable college credit to any state university in up to five years of study. Access to these courses is provided at every public high school in the state.

Governor's Press Office
State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27603-8001
(919) 733-5612 - Toll Free 1-800-662-7005
FAX (919) 733-5166